

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34157 210225Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /042 W
----- 074639 /21

R 210159Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7380
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, FR, VS
SUBJECT: FRENCH FLIGHT FROM SAIGON

1. DEC 16 FRENCH EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM SAIGON ARRIVED
WITH TOTAL OF 176 PASSENGERS, OF WHOM THERE WERE 114 FRENCH,
50 VIETNAMESE, 2 CAMBODIANS, 9 TAWWANESE AND 1 HONG KONG.

2. AIR FRANCE HAD ADVISED THAT AMONG PASSENGERS WOULD BE
FOUR TAIWANESE, A MRS. SHUE HO LE AND FAMILY, FOR WHOM
EMBASSY HAS AN APPROVED PETITION. HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT
ON FLIGHT, THE DECISION NOT TO ALLOW THEM TO BOARD HAVING
APPARENTLY BEEN MADE BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES SHORTLY BE-
FORE BOARDING.

3. ONE PASSENGER NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED EXIT VISA FOUR
MONTHS PREVIOUSLY BUT HAD TO MAKE NUMBER OF PAYMENTS IN ORDER
TO BE MANIFESTED FINALLY. OBVIOUSLY, OBTAINING AN EXIT VISA
IS ONLY AN INTERMEDIATE STEP IN DEPARTURE PROCEDURE.

4. SEVERAL PASSENGERS NOTED SHORTAGE OF RICE IN SAIGON
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 34157 210225Z

IN RECENT WEEKS. STATE STORES ARE CARRYING ONLY LOWEST
QUALITY RICE ("THE KIND WE USUALLY FEED THE ANIMALS")
AND THAT IN LIMITED QUANTITIES. THEY OBSERVED THAT ONE
CONTINUES TO FIND GOOD RICE ON THE BLACK MARKET, PLACED
THERE BY THE COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES, BUT AT A HIGH PRICE.
SOME SUGGESTED THAT A PORTION OF THE SOUTH'S GOOD RICE

IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING EXPORTED OUTSIDE THE AREA, ALTHOUGH
THEY COULD ONLY GUESS AS TO ITS DESTINATION.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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